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| | Since 2015, Malaysia has reiterated its commitment to support and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The commitment of Malaysia is evident as it embedded the SDGs into its National Plan. This chapter discusses the 2030 Agenda which serves as Malaysia's collective blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Institutional mechanisms and structures were established to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda. The continuous adaptation of SDG into the National Planning can be seen in Malaysia's 11th National Plan and 12th National Plan where its strategic plan includes the alignment of SDG and national development is realized through a mapping exercise which involves the integration of the national development plan's action plans, initiatives, and outcomes to the SDGs' goals, targets, and indicators. The embedment of SDGs in Malaysia's Plan ensures that the people will benefit from socioeconomic development, achieve inclusivity and social cohesion, and improve general well-being. | |
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| Keywords (separated by "-") | National planning - Sustainability - Sustainable Development Goals - Malaysia | |

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National Sustainability Planning in Malaysia

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Florianna Lendai Michael and Shanti Faridah Salleh

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Abstract

Since 2015, Malaysia has reiterated its commitment to support and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The commitment of Malaysia is evident as it embedded the SDGs into its National Plan. This chapter discusses the 2030 Agenda which serves as Malaysia's collective blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Institutional mechanisms and structures were established to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda. The continuous adaptation of SDG into the National

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Planning can be seen in Malaysia's 11th National Plan and 12th National Plan where its strategic plan includes the alignment of SDG and national development is realized through a mapping exercise which involves the integration of the national development plan's action plans, initiatives, and outcomes to the SDGs' goals, targets, and indicators. The embedment of SDGs in Malaysia's Plan ensures that the people will benefit from socioeconomic development, achieve inclusivity and social cohesion, and improve general well-being.

Keywords

National planning · Sustainability · Sustainable Development Goals · Malaysia

1 Introduction

The concept of National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) was proposed in 1992 in Agenda 21 where countries were called upon to integrate economic, social, and environmental objectives into one strategically focused blueprint for action at the national level. The NSDS should be developed through the widest possible participation, and it should be based on a thorough assessment of the current situation and initiatives. In 1997, in the Program for the Future Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at the 19th Special Session of the General Assembly (23–28 June 1997), Members States reaffirmed the importance of NSDS and set a target of 2002 for the formulation and elaboration of NSDS that reflect the contributions and responsibilities of all interested parties.

However, by 2002, based on national reports received from governments, only about 85 countries had developed some form of national strategies, and the nature and effectiveness of these strategies varied from country to country. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), through paragraph 162b, recommitted Member States to take immediate steps to make progress in the formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development and to begin their implementation by 2005.

During the preparatory process for the 2002 WSSD, the International Forum on NSDS was held in Accra, Ghana, in 2001, which led to the launch of the Guidance in Preparing a National Sustainable Development Strategy. It defined National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) as a coordinated, participatory, and iterative process of thoughts and actions to achieve economic, environmental, and social objectives in a balanced and integrative manner. Most importantly, NSDS is a call for an institutional change. It aims at a transition from the traditional static putting-a-plan-on-paper exercise toward the establishment of an adaptive system that can continuously improve. It should be a process which encompasses situation analysis, formulation of policies and action plans, implementation, monitoring, and regular review. It is a cyclical and interactive process of planning, participation, and action in which the emphasis is on managing progress toward sustainability goals rather than producing a “plan” as a “product.”